

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th November 1899.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1. The *Hablul Mateen* of the 30th October has the following:—

Persia's opportunity in the Sepoy War.

Correct information with respect to the Transvaal war will never reach any of England's dependencies. England, who has the advantage of telegraphic communications all over the world, has numerous dependencies in the globe in which peace has been maintained by stratagem and terrorism, and not by military force. She is governing a vast country like India by the help of less than fifty thousand English troops, and such is the case in her other dependencies. In fact, a conquered people are never pleased with their conquerors, and they look for a decline of the power of the conquerors, so that they may throw off their yoke. In the great Sepoy Mutiny, therefore, messages of any kind were not allowed to go out of India. England consequently defeated Persia in the battles of Bushire and Herat, and extorted from her terms so disadvantageous to her. If England had not adopted such a policy and Persia had come to know of the Mutiny and sent some troops to India, it would have been very difficult for England to suppress the Mutiny. A French statesman says that if Persia had been aware of the Mutiny which broke out at the same time as the Persian war, she could have easily sent an army to India. If the Persian force despatched to Herat had been allowed to cross the Indian frontier, they would have been gladly received by the sepoys, but through their folly, the Persians lost that golden opportunity. The sepoys, seeing that the Persians had withdrawn themselves from Herat, lost their courage, while the return to India of the English troops that had been sent out to Persia, struck terror into their mind. In fact, if England does not allow any war news to go out of her battlefield, she ought not to be blamed. Asiatics ought to follow Europeans in political and social matters. It is a matter of regret that the conservatism which is a hereditary and inborn characteristic of the Asiatics does not allow them to follow the good example of the Europeans. But they are very forward in adopting the vices of Europe.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Oct. 30th, 1899.

2. The same paper says that the causes of the victories that the Transvaal has gained over England in a few pitched battles are (1) that she has secured the co-

The Transvaal war.

operation of some other free States in South Africa, (2) that the Boers living in Cape Colony are in their favour, and (3) that England's rival Powers are secretly promising help to the Boers. The defeat of the Boers, however, in the present war is certain; still their defeat, like that of the Greeks, will bring them profit.

HABLUL MATEEN,

3. The *Hablul Mateen* of the 6th November has the following:—

English and Russian designs upon Persia.

England's war in the Transvaal may give the rival Powers an opportunity to obtain a diplomatic success in other parts of the world. Russia, the greatest rival of England in Asia, has, for a long time past, been trying to profit by such an opportunity. Both Russia and England are trying to obtain a foothold in Persia, which is the key to Asia. The Persian Gulf and the frontier of Persia are totally defenceless. The English, therefore, say that fifteen thousand troops and five men-of-war are enough to conquer Persia without any loss on the part of the conquerors. The European Powers do not keep their promise. They make friends with us only in order to be benefited by us. No European Power has, up to this time, been heard to give up its selfish object for the sake of friendship or treaty obligations. It is not owing either to Persia's military strength or Russia's and England's love of peace or their adhesion to the treaty with Persia that she is not still a scene of quarrel between Russia and England. Russia's long-cherished desire has been fulfilled, and England is making war in South Africa and will not, for the present, quarrel with Russia. Under these circumstances, Russia may endeavour to extort some fresh concession from Persia. Persian statesmen ought to be careful in dealing with the Russian question. If the Russians are admitted into the Persian Gulf, Persia will be completely in the clutches of Russia. If Persia had been wise enough, she could have extorted from both Russia and England some fifty millions of sterling every year just as the Afghans do. The fact is

HABLUL MATEEN,
Nov. 6th, 1899.

that the Persians are an ignorant people and do not know how to collect wealth and increase power.

HABUL MATEEN,
Nov. 6th, 1899.

4. The same paper says that up to this time the Boers remain victorious. For the defeat which England has sustained, the Ministry of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain

The Transvaal war.

has been censured. It is said that if England sustains another defeat, she will give up fighting. It is said that the British Ministry is going to be changed, because it is held responsible for the recent defeat of England. It is understood from telegraphic messages that if England is defeated in another battle with the Boers, she will sue for peace, holding some particular English statesman responsible, as is the custom, for the Boer war. In the Parliament, the question of making peace with the Boers has been raised. But if England sues for peace, she will disgrace herself, and South Africa will no more remain under her control. A short time after this, that part of Africa will become a Republic. It is said that the Boers will not now accept the terms which they at first demanded from England. Up to this time, the Boers are fighting single-handed. The Orange Free State may soon co-operate with them. Some Englishmen advise England to prevent the Orange Free State, by means of concessions, from helping the Boers. Others say that England will, at any cost, prosecute the war with the Boers. But the Boer success has created a fear in the minds of the English troops.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

5. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 9th November says that a rumour is current among the Musalmans of India that the Sultan of Turkey has issued an ultimatum to England to the effect that she has insulted His

The rumoured Turkish ultimatum to England.

Majesty's Royal authority by not replying to the note submitted to her by him, and that if she does not reply to it within twenty-five days of the service of the present note, he will take other means of mending the matter. The writer disbelieves the rumour, and says that it is *bazar gup*. It is true that the Sultan, long ago, sent a note to England, and has not been favoured with a reply to it. He, therefore, may have a mind to have recourse to such a measure. In that case, England will never keep silent, and the whole world will be thrown into a state of utter disorder.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

6. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th November writes as follows:—

The British and the Dutch in South Africa.

Many think that the English were the first to establish colonies in South Africa. This is a mistake. Two hundred and fifty years ago, the Dutch first established a colony in South Africa and called it Cape Colony. These men gradually turned the dense forests of South Africa into fertile fields and plantations, and it was through their exertion that flourishing towns rose, where there was dense forest. The limits of Cape Colony were gradually extended. During the French Revolution of 1795, the French conquered Holland. The British, the enemy of the French, established their suzerainty in Dutch Cape Colony. The English promised that, after the war, the freedom of the Colony would be restored. But they did not think it advantageous to fulfil their promise. At last, in 1841, Cape Colony remained under the British according to the treaty of Vienna. The Dutch settlers of Cape Colony were not satisfied with this arrangement, and they rebelled against the British. The British put down the rebellion with indomitable courage, and inspired terror into the minds of the Dutch settlers by sending six of their leaders to the gallows. The Dutch settlers of South Africa, the Boers, still remember the names of these leaders with reverence. For some time no signs of disturbance were visible. In 1835, the Boers left the British colony with their arms, cattle, and household utensils, and began to settle in a dense jungle north of Cape Colony. Kruger, the present President of the Transvaal Republic, was only ten years old when he left Cape Colony with his father and took shelter in the jungle. At the time of leaving Cape Colony, the Boers issued the following proclamation:—"We are leaving the Colony, and hope that the British Government do not expect anything from us. We hope that, in future, the British will not interfere with our administration." These Boers divided themselves into two parties near the Orange river. One of the parties crossed the hills, and established a Republic in Natal. The English followed them, and, after defeating them in 1844, proclaimed Natal

a British colony. The other party settled on the bank of the Orange river. In 1848, they were also defeated, and the Orange State was annexed by the British. In 1854, a treaty was concluded, and the British agreed not to interfere with the States north of the Orange river.

The Boers crossed the Vaal and established a Republic. In 1852, the English promised that they would not interfere with the Boers of those parts of the country in carrying on their own administration independently. But the English could not fulfil their promise in its entirety. Diamond mines were discovered on the borders of the Orange Free State, and the English included those parts within their territory, disregarding all treaties. The historian, Mr. Froude, says that such a disgraceful event never before happened in English history. The Boers of the Orange Free State were greatly enraged at this conduct of the British. For some years from 1852, the Boers were engaged in petty quarrels with their neighbours, the savages. These disputes at last assumed a very serious aspect and, in 1877, a war with the Zulus became imminent. At this time, the Boers were also short of funds to prosecute the war. Sir Bartle Frere and Lord Carnarvon took advantage of the situation, and annexed the Transvaal Republic. The Boers, instead of proclaiming a war, sent President Kruger and the present Boer General, Joubert, to England, to lay their grievances before the British Parliament. Sir Bartle Frere reported that most of the Boers were willing to live under British rule. On the strength of this report, the British Parliament rejected the application of the Boers.

The Boers then determined to wage war and, in 1880, war was proclaimed against the British. The English were defeated in more battles than one. In 1881, the Boers obtained a full measure of self-government according to the treaty of Pretoria; but they had to admit the supremacy of the Queen and accept a few other conditions. The Boer Parliament objected to these conditions. In spite of their objections, however, a treaty was signed. Finding it very difficult to carry all the conditions of the treaty into effect, a new treaty was concluded in 1884 in London, according to which the Boers obtained full independence in the internal administration of the country. They also obtained the right of concluding peace with the other European Powers, subject to the condition of first obtaining the permission of the Queen. After two years from the conclusion of this treaty, gold mines were discovered in the Transvaal. The English entered the Transvaal in large parties, led by their greed for gold. A conflict arose between the original Boer settlers and these newcomers. As a result of this, Sir Cecil Rhodes, Jameson, and others conspired to take possession of the Transvaal by force. But the conspirators were taken prisoners and confined. From that day the English conspirators are devising various means to take possession of the Transvaal. So long their hopes had not been fulfilled. Now that the British Government has taken up arms against the Boers, the conspirators are beside themselves with joy.

7. The *Basumati* of the 9th November writes as follows:—

The Transvaal war.

By taking advantage of opportunities, the Boer has gained temporary successes which have inflated him with vanity. There is not a strong British army in North Natal. Sir George White has been invested. Taking advantage of this, the Boers have proclaimed North Natal independent of British suzerainty. What impudence this!

8. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th November writes as follows:—

General Joubert.

The reader may be curious to know something about that foremost of heroes, the Boer Commander, Joubert, whose prowess has surprised the English and filled the world with astonishment. Joubert is 68 years old. But though old in years, he is more than a match for far younger people in zeal, enterprise and enthusiasm. He is as skilled in politics as in war. He knows no mercy on the field of battle, and never hesitates to slay a foe. But though a tiger on the field of battle, he is known to be an incarnation of tenderness at other times. He is a righteous man. A few days before the war began, he wrote a letter to Mr. Clarke, M.P., which affords a proof of his righteousness. He has not failed to demonstrate that Mr. Chamberlain has incited the English people to an unjust

BASUMATI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

war. The general public of the Transvaal has a firm faith in and deep respect for, Joubert. At his beck the entire population of the Transvaal has left their ploughs and taken up arms at a moment's notice. Joubert is a very skilled warrior and well versed in tactics. His tactics have put even the trained English troops to trouble. He says that every shot of a Boer kills a foe. He is an unerring marksman himself. General Joubert is a very just and conscientious man. If he had looked upon the war his country is waging as an unjust war, he would not have joined it. He gave up the Boer command, when the Boers, in 1884, in violation of their treaty with the English, entered into Bechuana and sought war with England. This will enable one to judge of the strength of his character.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

9. The same paper has the following:—

Maltreatment of Indians in the
Transvaal.

Natal is an English colony and the English are our rulers. But the sufferings of Indians know no bounds in this English colony. All Indians who settle there for purposes of trade, &c., are harassed and insulted. Race distinction is very conspicuous in Natal. The Indians sought redress with all their energy, but to no purpose. Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, declared that as Natal was a self-governing colony, its action could not be interfered with. But England does not now shrink from defending this colony at an immense cost of blood and treasure, and troops are being sent for its defence even from India.

When Indians suffer so much in an English colony, it is no wonder that their sufferings must be very great in the Transvaal, the territory of the Boers. Mr. K. M. Gandhi practises as a lawyer at Durban. He is an Indian, and it is no wonder that he should feel for his oppressed countrymen. He has lately sent a representation to the English Government on behalf of Indians. From a copy of this representation, which has been sent to us, we learn that Indians are called coolies in the Transvaal, that they are not allowed to reside at Johannesburg, that the place which has now been assigned as their quarters is nearly five miles from the town, and close to where the refuse of the town is thrown. The very Kafirs declined to live in this place. Mr. Gandhi has proved that the residence of Indians at that place will be injurious to their trade, and that, according to their treaty with England, the Boers have no right to harass Indians in this way. Mr. Gandhi prays that the English Government may not forget to provide against such maltreatment of Indians in the treaty which will be made with the Boers when the war will be over. We do not know whether the English Government will keep the fact of these sufferings of Indians in its mind when the treaty will be made. The present war has been undertaken to enable English residents of the Transvaal to have a share in the government of that country. Indians have no such aspirations. All that they want is security against maltreatment. Will not the English Government be guilty of neglect of duty if it does not grant them this protection?

HITAVADI.

10. The same paper writes as follows in an article headed "What have we learnt from our defeat in the war"?

The British reverses in the
Transvaal war.

We were defeated at Ladysmith. We are not surprised that the English have sustained a reverse. The fighting strength of the English is unlimited, their wealth and resources are infinite, their collection of arms and ammunition is extraordinarily vast, and their troops are invincible. It is the proud consciousness of this fact that leads the English to hold the whole world in contempt, to think that there is no one in this world who can be their fit opponent. Indeed, it is no wonderful achievement on their part to scale mountains and cross rivers and hoist the victorious British flag everywhere. The armies of all nations hesitate in fear to face the British army supported by its excellent mountain battery and equipped with Martini-Henri rifles. It is doubtful whether there is any other nation which possesses such an immense quantity of the munitions of war, so many fighting men and such vast wealth. It is only excessive pride which has caused this reverse to British arms. The English seem to have taken the field with the forgone conclusion that the Boers are not men, and went to conquer South Africa with a handful of troops, evidently thinking in their minds that the work of suppressing the Boers could be finished in a trice. This defeat brings into prominent relief that pride in their minds, this

humiliation is the inevitable outcome of that pride, and this disgrace is the necessary result of that indiscretion and recklessness.

That the French are laughing in jubilation, that the Germans are indulging in ridicule, that the Dutch are shouting in joy, that the Russians are looking on with eyes beaming with delight and that the sound of heart-rending banter is coming from America – all this is the outcome of that excessive pride on the part of Great Britain. Could not the insignificant Boers be vanquished in one moment? England has the power to even cause the whole of the Transvaal to disappear in the bottom of the sea. Nevertheless, this defeat, this cruel humiliation is the result of that British pride. We are not sorry for this defeat of Britain. What we are sorry for is the lack of discretion, which she has evinced in this war. For that lack of discretion, which has cost the lives of hundreds of invincible heroes on the battlefield, and led to the capture of thousands of brave officers and soldiers by the enemy and the surrender into their hands of countless arms and transport animals, we feel deeply pained and mortified. Large reinforcements are now being sent, the Transvaal must be conquered, but the great majority of, if not all, the heroic men in exchange for whose invaluable lives victory will have to be purchased might have been spared if instead of being blinded by pride, England had conducted her military operations in South Africa with discretion and caution.

The attention of the whole world has been directed to the Boer race and to their bravery and patriotism. The oppression of the Indians in South Africa has led us to hate the Boers, still we feel constrained to praise their bravery with a thousand tongues. Praised be their bravery! Praised be their courage!! Praised be their patriotism!!! The fire-arms of the English are like powerful burning lamps, and the Boers must, like insects, cast themselves upon them and get killed. That they have been nevertheless waging a war on equal terms with the English so long and have defeated the latter is praise which will remain recorded in the history of the world for all time. Just before the commencement of hostilities, the Boers predicted that they would be defeated in this war, would probably be forced to surrender their independence into the hands of the English, but that the price at which they would part with that possession would be one that would stagger humanity. Indeed, the Boers are giving proofs of this defiant spirit on the battlefield, and the courage they are displaying has already startled humanity.

The English are fighting in a foreign country, while the Boers have taken up arms to defend their independence at all costs. The English labour under various disadvantages. The operations have to be conducted in unknown mountain passes, in a steep country covered with dense jungle and in a climate unsuited to Englishmen. In all these matters the advantages are all on the side of the Boers. They can easily traverse mountains, rivers and valleys, the sun and the rain cause them less discomfort than is suffered by the English, while their chief strength lies in their firm resolution. They are fighting for their wives and children, they are fighting for the independence of their country. It is a sacred *mantra* in which they are initiated, it is an austere vow to the fulfilment of which they have consecrated their lives and minds. Their love of war is a thousand times more stimulating than the love of victory which fires the hearts of warriors bent on the conquest and annexation of foreign territory. They have taken up arms not to gratify their fighting propensity, but to defend their country and lay down their lives in the attempt. It behoved the English to consider this and act accordingly. The greatest blunder on the part of the English was that they paid no sufficient attention to the matter of preparations, and failed to take the field in as efficient a condition as regards equipment and troops as was necessary to bring about a defeat of a determined enemy like the Boers.

If in taking the field against the Boers the English had borne in mind that they were not warriors like those who confronted the Indian army on the frontier or in the neighbourhood of Hati Mardan, or that they were not unarmed barbarians of the Swat Valley or the worthless soldiers of the Manipur State, nobody would ever have heard of this defeat. How many Boers have the English captured? But does it bespeak small bravery and glory on the part of the Boers of Africa that they have disarmed whole battalions of English soldiers and made them prisoners? The merits of even an

enemy ought to be acknowledged. The Boers possess many merits, and it would not do to overlook them. It may be true that the English army will send the whole of the Transvaal State to the bottom of the abyss, but we shall not be able easily to forget this story of Boer bravery.

What was the use of sending only European soldiers to Africa? Would it not have done to send Indian troops instead? Would it not do to send the Gurkhas, who are so well trained in the art of English warfare? Without under-estimating the strength of the enemy, a sufficiently large number of able, efficient and hardy troops should be despatched to the seat of war. The Boers are not such an insignificant enemy that you can blow them away with your mouths. The lawless young men, who, after doing only a little jumping and bounding tussle with the Indians and parading their authority in this country, have learnt the luxury of a swinging punkha, cannot endure the hardships of war. There are thousands of native soldiers who are able to lay down their lives for any portion of the dominions of the Queen-Empress. If these men are sent to the Transvaal under the command of competent leaders, the trouble and hardship of soldiers unaccustomed to war will be considerably mitigated. The Boers are true heroes, and one must fight against them like a hero. They have given up all hope of life and are doing their utmost, and, if they are to be defeated, they must be harassed by an overwhelmingly large force.

It is very easy to say victory to the English. That the victory of English arms is certain, we know very well. But before that victory is gained, there must be self-sacrifice, and the Transvaal will have to be washed with the heart's blood of many heroes, or the Boers will not be easily vanquished. It is not a few mercenary military adventurers who are supporting Paul Krüger and General Joubert. There are heroes in the Transvaal who are ready to give their heart's blood for the sake of independence. And if you must successfully compete with that heroism, you should take care to increase your army proportionately. If Britain is defeated, it is helpless India that will suffer the most. And because there is no likelihood of defeat, it will not do to be blinded by pride and lose all sense. If the Boers now succeed in inflicting on us a heavy loss of blood and treasure and are brought under submission only after great delay, the effect will be that in future Russia and other Powers will grow sceptical about the power and resources of England. If they ever invade India, we shall be the first to suffer. That is why we feel it necessary to say so much beforehand.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 11th, 1899.

11. The *Bangavasi* of the 11th November writes as follows:—

The Transvaal war. The Transvaal war is more than a month old, and there is yet no knowing how long this *gajakachchhapi* war, this war between two equally brave fighting nations, will go on. We are praying to the Divine Mother, the Mother of the Universe, day and night, that this great war, this war as sanguinary as the ancient Kurukshetra war, may come to an end!

There can be no doubt that the English will ultimately come victorious out of this war. In almost all the wars in South Africa English arms have at first met with reverses. But when these reverses roused the British lion and he fell upon his enemies vigorously with his teeth and nails, they took to flight like so many rats before that vigorous onslaught. This was the case with the Zulu and the Kafir Wars. But those wars ended in the British annexation of the Zulu and the Kafir lands.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 12th, 1899.

12. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th November writes as follows:—

The Transvaal war. Many savage tribes lived in the forest in which the Boers established their rule. Unable to face the weapons of civilized nations, these savage tribes were being annihilated one by one, when the Zulus defeated the Boers, and the life and property of the Boers fell into their hands. In this crisis, when the Boers were on the verge of ruin, the English came to their help and took possession of the Transvaal after defeating the Zulus. The English, instead of depriving the Boers of their independence, permitted them to carry on their own administration, and the Boers were only required to acknowledge the suzerainty of the Queen. There are gold mines in the Transvaal, and many Englishmen went there, led by their greed for gold. In course of time the Boers forgot the many advantages

which they had received at the hands of the British, and began to persecute the British subjects. The British Government repeatedly asked the Boers not to persecute their subjects and to give them equal rights with the Boers. But the Boers turned a deaf ear to all their solicitations. Being exasperated by such impertinence and ungratefulness on the part of the Boers, the English Government began to prepare for a war. Though ready for war, the British still asked the Boers to re-consider the matter. The Boers not only refused to listen to the English, but said that if the English did not remove their soldiers from their country within 24 hours they would proclaim war against them. What audacity! Such audacity would be unbearable to us. What wonder that the British should be unable to tolerate it?

13. The *Som Prakash* of the 13th November has the following:—

The Transvaal war.

We know it for certain that the English will come off victorious in the long run. The Boers are on the verge of ruin. They have not the power to resist the indomitable courage of the British. What has happened up to date is due only to the negligence of the British. Now that the British are determined to prosecute the war with vigour, the Boers will lack power to resist them. We know all this. But still, like Sir William Harcourt, we are for peace. What will the English gain, even if the Boers are defeated and their country is annexed to the British dominion? What will they gain by annexing a country where there are only a few thousands of people, most of whom are farmers? We doubt whether the money which will be required to prosecute the war will ever be raised from that country. Over and above this, the English will never be able to make up for the loss of the lives of their distinguished officers, by taking even thousands of Boer lives. The annexation of hundreds of Boer Republics will not make up for the loss of blood and treasure which the English will have to suffer in the course of this war. We know well that Lord Salisbury never willingly entered upon the war. Perhaps he was induced to enter upon it by the crooked-minded Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Chamberlain's defence of his policy is not considered satisfactory by any one. We most humbly ask Mr. Chamberlain to try to secure peace and not to mark with bloodshed the closing part of Victoria's reign. We think that his efforts in this direction will be crowned with success. The defeat of the Boers and the annexation of their country will not mean a cessation of disturbances for good. An independent nation like the Boers will never be able to live under foreign rule, and the English will, for a long time, have to meet petty disturbances. They will lose no opportunity for trouble, and the English will have to be always on the alert. The English will have to keep soldiers in their country, and we doubt whether the money required to pay the soldiers will ever be raised from them. Here, in India, the hill tribes, though repeatedly defeated, cause trouble to the English every now and then. It is said that the sun never sets on Victoria's dominions; why, then, this unnecessary extension of dominion?

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 13th, 1899.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

14. The *Tripura Hitaishi* of the 6th November says that one Tamij-

Murders in Tippera.

uddi Shaikh of village Kanakpur within the jurisdiction of the Chauddagran thana, district Tippera, was murdered by a gun-shot on the night of the 2nd November last. Such cases of murder are not rare in many villages of the Bagsai pargana of this district. The motive for such murders was generally the wreaking of vengeance, and they could not possibly have been perpetrated by men from other districts. Of the murders committed during the last few years, those of Afsaraddi Mian and Golam Hosain require special notice. Those two men were most brutally murdered and the accused in those two cases escaped for want of evidence. Murders like these are generally committed by the local *bad-mashes*. We think that the *badmashes* will be easily arrested and punished, if the police take the help of the leading men of the village in their investigations. We also think that such cases ought to be enquired into by the Sadar Inspector or the District Superintendent himself.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Nov. 6th, 1899.

VISHNUPRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

15. The *Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 15th November says that there seems to be great prevalence of *badmashi* in a village in the *Badmashi* at Katipara in the Khulna district. The writer has received four letters of complaint.

The first complainant states that his wife has been enticed away by some people. The second complainant says that several people have been greatly harassing him by throwing brickbats and human ordure into his house. No one ventures to give evidence against the *badmashes* from a fear of being oppressed. The third complainant says that he has been beaten and his house has been looted, because he remonstrated with certain people for holding indecent revelry near his dwelling-house.

The fourth complainant states that oppression has been committed upon his sister and his brother's wife and, unable to obtain redress, he has left them and removed elsewhere.

The attention of the District Magistrate of Khulna is drawn to these oppressions.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 8th, 1899.

16. The *Samiran* of the 8th November writes as follows:—

Mr. Pennell's transfer.

Mr. Phillips committed oppression in Mymensingh. The oppression was proved, and he was transferred. The public looked upon this transfer as a punishment. Mr. Pennell unhesitatingly upheld the cause of justice, and was determined to put down oppression by the executive authorities, and he too has been transferred to Noakhali. We do not know whether his transfer is due to his incurring the displeasure of the executive authorities whose oppression he has disclosed. The public, however, is of opinion that his transfer is due to his quarrel with the executive authorities. The regret is not that Mr. Pennell has been transferred, but that he has been transferred to a place like Noakhali, which is a fit place for punishment.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

17. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th November says that Mr. Pennell, the District Judge of Chapra, has been transferred to Noakhali during his illness. Mr. Pennell is said

Mr. Pennell's transfer.

to have reported the whole matter to the Chief Justice. The writer cannot say what will happen this time. But when Babu Atul Chandra Chattopadhyay, then Deputy Magistrate of Backergunge, and Mr. Staley, the Judge of that district, were transferred to unhealthy stations for having incurred the displeasure of the authorities, the then Chief Justice, Sir Comer Petheram, interposed on their behalf, and thereby greatly displeased Sir Charles Elliott. The matter was ultimately brought to the notice of the Government of India, and as a result of this, Mr. Staley and Babu Atul Chandra were promoted. Great injustice has been done to Mr. Pennell in the present instance. The writer believes that Sir Francis Maclean will not fail to tread in the footsteps of Sir Comer Petheram. We hope that justice will be done to Mr. Pennell if his case is brought to the notice of Sir John Woodburn.

HITAVADI,

18. The same paper learns from a correspondent, that as Mr. White, a dealer in hides at Dinajpur, was driving along the streets a native zamindar came in his way. Mr. White's horse shied at this, and Mr. White

A heavy offence lightly punished.

whipped the zamindar for his presumption. The zamindar instituted a case against Mr. White in the Court of the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Dinajpur, who sent the papers of the case to the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate has fined Mr. White only Rs. 20. The zamindar, who had been charged with having endangered Mr. White's life by frightening his horse, was fined Rs. 5. This fine of Rs. 20 for whipping a respectable native, though nothing new in India, will appear strange in other civilised countries. Will the District Magistrate be soon promoted?

SOM PRAKASH,
Nov. 13th, 1899.

19. The *Som Prakash* of the 13th November writes with reference to the decision of Mr. Pennell in the Chapra case:—

Mr. Pennell and the Musalman Deputy Magistrate in the Chapra case.

Mr. Pennell is a keensighted, religious and noble-minded man. He said in his judgment that the District Magistrate was the head of the Subordinate Magistracy, and when he himself caused Narsingh's case to be dismissed, its re-trial ought to be made by a Deputy Magistrate not subordinate to him. We do

not know whether there is another highminded and religious man like Mr. Pennell in British India. Mr. Pennell must have been inspired by the noble example of the Roman Judge who sent his own son to the gallows or of the English Judge who sent a Prince of Wales to prison. Such impartiality and conscientiousness are rarely seen. Many onesided and low-minded people will say that he must have written his judgment out of his grudge against Mr. Twidell; otherwise he would not have said anything about referring the case to the High Court. We on our part do not for a moment think that Mr. Pennell did anything in anger. Though Mr. Pennell spoke of referring the case to the High Court, in the very next breath he said that there would be no need of such reference, if Mr. Macpherson, the permanent District Magistrate, returned from leave, as he was likely to do, and that the parties could well rely on his impartiality and judgment. This shows what a farsighted man Mr. Pennell is. How could Mr. Pennell rely on a Deputy Magistrate under Mr. Twidell, who, knowing the case from the beginning to the end, compromised his high position in order to screen Mr. Corbett and showed a rather elastic memory in giving his evidence in Narsingh's case. We heard that the Deputy Magistrate, Zakir Hosain, had retired after the severe reprimand he received from the Judge in the above case. He has served Government for 27 years, and we think that during these 27 years he has sent many a Narsingh to jail. We were therefore glad to learn that the Mian Sahib had retired and intended to pass the remaining days of his life in the service of Alla. Mr. Pennell has quoted a few lines in his judgment to show that the Maulvi Sahib had done all these acts of unrighteousness merely for the sake of his bread. He had cast justice into hell in order to please the District Magistrate. He had ignored truth and placed the crown of justice on the head of injustice. We were therefore glad that the Maulvi Sahib had meant to pass the remaining days of his life in expiating the many sins he has committed, while in office, in order to please his superiors. We thought he would undertake a pilgrimage to Mecca. But we now hear that he has not retired nor has he any intention of retiring soon. We give him one advice. If Mr. Pennell's soft reprimand has frightened him, he need have no fear. Even if Mr. Pennell's judgment attracts the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor, of the Viceroy, or of the Secretary of State himself, he need not fear. We hear that he is a Deputy Magistrate of the first grade, and has therefore no hope of further promotion. If he has any such hope, let him stick to his post for his hope will be fulfilled. But if he has no such hope, we advise him to retire. Perhaps his hair has grown grey, perhaps he has lost some teeth, and it is time for him to think of the last day. We ask him to think of that day, while there is yet time. Therefore we say to him, "Better retire; repent of your past sins." We say to him: "If you are frightened, there is no cause for fear. There is no Lieutenant-Governor or Viceroy in India who will dare to touch your hair. You may stick to your post. But if you are afraid of the next world, it is time for you to retire."

20. The *Samiran* of the 15th November has the following:—

Mr. Pennell.

The inhabitants of Chapra are very sorry to see Mr. Pennell leave them for Noakhali in bad health. The inhabitants of Chapra are indeed afraid to live under the rule of the executive, who were jointly bent upon persecuting Narsingh, after losing an independent and just Judge like Mr. Pennell. All Anglo-Indian papers, the *Morning Post* excepted, are silent about the injustice done to Mr. Pennell. Perhaps they are ashamed to say anything about this case. We do not know whether the Lieutenant-Governor will interfere in the matter. We hear that Mr. Pennell has written to the High Court about this matter. This is not the first time that we see Mr. Pennell giving proofs of his learning, judgment and sense of justice. He obtained praise from the High Court for the opinions recorded by him in the Dacca incendiarism case. We do not think that the High Court will see a just man like him persecuted and do nothing.

(d)—Education.

21. The *Basumati* of the 9th November has the following:—

Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterji,
Inspector of Schools, Burdwan
Circle.

We generally hesitate to write anything against native officials of rank, and always try to induce those who want us to write against them to

SAMIRAN
Nov. 15th, 1899.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

give up their purpose. Day by day it is becoming more and more difficult for natives to be appointed to high posts, and Bengalis are working with a heavy heart and cheerless countenance under the iron rule of European officials, never without a load of stain on their back. If, over and above this, we, their countrymen, went on trumpeting their failings and shortcomings, we should make their lives a burden to themselves. But everything has a limit, and the manner in which Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterji, B.A., Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle, has been doing his work for some time past has become really unbearable to many. We have received many letters against him, and we are compelled to write a few words against him.

Babu Abinash Chandra Chatterji was the Chittagong Inspector before he was brought to Burdwan through the favour of the authorities. Barakar is within the Burdwan educational circle, and is therefore within the Inspector's jurisdiction. Of the coal-mines in Barakar, there are three, of which one is owned by Abinash Babu, and of which the other two are held by him in joint proprietorship with Babu Jadugopal Chatterji. There was a quarrel over these two coal-mines between Abinash Babu and Jadu Babu. A suit was filed at Burdwan, which was carried up to the High Court. At last a compromise was talked of, and Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi was appointed arbitrator. The case has now been compromised. We do not know who conducted the case on Abinash Babu's behalf, but we know that he himself did not take leave. As an Inspector, he had to go out on tour. We hear that during his tour Abinash Babu spent fifty days in the Burdwan district during the trial of his suit. He was, of course, doing a public duty; he was inspecting schools. Midnapore is a larger district, but the Inspector could not spend more than ten days in that district, most probably for want of time.

Babu Sasibhusan Chatterji is one of Abinash Babu's cousins and is the author of *Charu Siksha*. *Charu Siksha* is a text-book for the B standard of the primary schools. It is said that Abinash Babu is highly offended if the Vice-Chairman of a District Board does not appoint it as a text-book. Lately, the Vice-Chairman of a District Board removed *Charu Siksha* from the list of text-books. The Deputy Inspector of that district requested the Vice-Chairman not to do any such thing, as the removal of this book from the list would prove injurious to him (the Deputy Inspector). The Vice-Chairman, however, who was a European, did not grant the Deputy Inspector's request, and wrote to the Chairman that it was he and not the Deputy Inspector who was responsible for the removal of the book from the list. But even this did not save the Deputy Inspector. He was transferred. Why this stain on his fair name?

Babu Rajkrishna Ray Chaudhuri is a pensioned Deputy Inspector. His son, Arunraj Ray Chaudhuri, was a clerk in the Hooghly Normal School. According to a recent order, Arunraj was required to deposit Rs. 200 as security. He applied for four days' leave that he might go home and collect the required amount. But Abinash Babu required him to make the deposit within 24 hours. This of course he could not do, and he lost his appointment. Babu Satis Chandra, the Inspector's son-in-law, has been appointed to the post. We have heard many such stories against Abinash Babu. But it does not look well that even such stories should be heard against a high official. If these stories are false, they should be contradicted. If true, the Director of Public Instruction should cause an enquiry to be made into them. Why Abinash alone? We have heard such stories against many Babus. A vernacular text-book, if it is widely appointed in schools, proves highly remunerative. This is why writers of text-books always try their best to keep Inspectors in humour. Some try to entertain and serve ailing inspecting officers out for a change, in their bungalows in healthy stations, engaging their relations to look after and minister to them. Some try to please high educational authorities with their services in their Calcutta residences. As a consequence of all this, their books enjoy a permanent monopoly in vernacular schools and become a source of income. But is this good? Is such monopoly desirable?

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

22. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th November says that the Government of India has passed a Resolution expressing its prejudice against high education and its partiality for primary education. The Government has ordered a reduction of the expenditure on high education and the increase of

the expenditure on primary education. Does nobody understand why an Englishman dislikes English education and likes primary education in this country?

23. The same paper says that Mahamahopadhyay Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar, at the time of delivering his first lectures on Hindu philosophy in connection with the Sree Gopal Basu Mullik Vedanta Professorship, proposed that none but Hindus should be admitted to his lectures. This being objected to he admitted the public to the lectures. The *Calcutta Gazette* now contains a notification intimating that Hindus only will be admitted to the Vedanta class. If the Mahamahopadhyay has no objection to teach the Vedanta to the non-Brahman castes, what objections can he possibly have to teach it to non-Hindus? It is not right that the University or its house should be turned into a private *tol*.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

24. The *Bangavasi* of the 11th November writes as follows:—

The question of technical *versus* general education.

Technical education is a great favourite with people in England, but even in that country technical education is not allowed to interfere with general education. To tell the truth, even in England, general education occupies the highest place, technical education filling only a place of subsidiary importance. Secondary, technical and middle education are all going on hand in hand in England. The inspection of all these branches of education is in the hands of an Association called "The National Association of Technical and Secondary Education." In a speech, recently delivered, the Duke of Devonshire laid stress on the importance of general education. In his opinion, one must be furnished with a general education of some sort before he can be expected to acquire proficiency in technical education. Mr. Pedler wants to promote technical education at the cost of general education. Mr. Pedler possesses very little Indian experience, and his English experience also seems to be limited. His report shows that he has very little knowledge of the assembly, of which the Duke of Devonshire is the President.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 11th, 1899.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

25. The *Charu Mihir* of the 7th November says that many are dying of cholera at Itna in the Mymensingh district. The patients are not being properly treated for want of good doctors. There are neither good doctors nor good dispensaries in that part of the district. It often so happens that hundreds of men die for want of medical treatment. The people will be greatly benefited if a dispensary is opened at Itna. When Dr. Dharmadas Basu was the Civil Surgeon of the district, he felt the want and proposed to establish a dispensary in the village. He, however, could not carry his proposal into effect, as he was soon transferred.

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 7th, 1899.

26. The *Basirhat Suhrid* of the 11th November has the following:—

The Basirhat Municipality.

There can be no doubt that fencing a river full of crocodiles, lighting public roads, fencing ponds and tanks, and constructing bamboo bridges over water channels are the first and foremost duties of a Municipality. But these are not all that a Municipality is required to do. Municipal Commissioners ought to see that these works are in proper order, and that they serve the purpose for which they were made. Does the Basirhat Municipality think its duty done by keeping clean only those places which the Divisional Commissioner or the District Magistrate is expected to visit? The Commissioners will see, if they care to go into the village, how the people live in the midst of dense jungle and in sadly unhealthy places, lacking all thoroughfares. Is it not the duty of the Municipality to remove these grievances?

BASIRHAT SUHRID,
Nov. 11th, 1899.

A drunkard named Biraj Mohan Basu, on his way home from a wine-shop, fell into a roadside tank and was drowned. The Municipality had fenced this tank, but the fence was in such a dilapidated condition that it could not protect the poor man.

The road running northward and lying east of the Baduria police-station ought to be fenced, it being near the riverside. On the 2nd November last, a cart with its driver fell from this road into the river. We are sorry that the Chairman is indifferent to all these matters.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,
Nov. 6th, 1899.

27. The *Tripura Hitaishi* of the 6th November complains that the Aukhara terminus station on the Assam-Bengal Railway is in a very dilapidated condition. The station room is no better than a hut. The passengers suffer great inconvenience on account of there being no waiting room. There is no arrangement for lighting the station. It is lighted only immediately before the arrival of a train. In coming to the station passengers have to cross the line, which is very dangerous. The construction of an overbridge has become urgently necessary.

(h)—General.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 8th, 1899.

28. The *Medini Bandhav* of the 8th November has the following:—
Non-observance of gazetted holidays in the Executive Engineer's office, Midnapore Division. All Government offices are closed according to the list of public holidays notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*. We are sorry to find that the Executive Engineer of the Midnapore Division, Mr. White, is repeatedly disregarding the orders of Government in this matter. Mr. White compelled his clerks to come to office on the Mahalaya day, and he closed his office for the Durga Puja two days after the commencement of the gazetted holidays. On the 1st November, when the Executive Engineer was in the mufassal, the accountant passed an order declaring that the 2nd and the 3rd November should be observed as holidays in the Executive Engineer's office on account of the Kali Puja festival. The following day, Mr. White came back at 8 o'clock in the morning and found his office closed. He at once passed an order that the accountant and clerks should attend office. The order was carried out. We have also come to know from a trustworthy source that the office of the Executive Engineer remains open even on Sundays. We think that if there is really so much pressure of business, the Executive Engineer should move Government to increase his establishment, instead of disregarding its orders in respect of holidays.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 8th, 1899.

29. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 8th November says that the residents of Murshidabad have petitioned the Government for the establishment of a Sub-Registry office at Lal Bag, in the Murshidabad district. The writer hopes that their prayer will be granted, as Mr. Bolton knows the place very well.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

30. The *Sanjivani* of the 9th November says that the rulers of India, like those of Russia, are afraid of students. The Russian rulers have reason to fear students, because many students are joining the Nihilists. Not to speak of Indian students, not even an adult Indian has ever attempted to take away the life of a public officer. Then why do the authorities here look so unfavourably on students and their teachers? Why these strict rules to prevent Indian students from taking part in political agitation and from attending political meetings? The Bombay and the Madras Governments have ruled that no students or teachers of any aided institution should join in any political agitation or be present in political meetings. The Madras Government has further ruled that the Government will itself select text-books for schools and colleges, and no book, disapproved by Government, should be taught in the schools. The writer thinks that the Government does not perhaps like to see books containing independent and patriotic sentiments taught in the schools. If it be so, it will be better to abolish English education from the country, as all English books are full of accounts of liberty and independence. The writer had so long taken the Governor of Madras for a large-hearted man, and he is therefore grieved to find such an objectionable rule made during his governorship. Are the English determined to make the Indian students worthless and cowardly?

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

31. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th November says that Lord Curzon is day after day winning the heartfelt reverence of the Indian people by his ability and sympathy. His sympathy with natives is seen in many acts of his. He has promptly attended to the memorial of Bhai Kuar Singh. He is also said to have censured the head of the Rawal Pindi Commissariat for proposing to keep his office open on the day of the *Bijaya Dasami*. He has, besides, passed an

order prohibiting heads of offices from imposing fines on clerks in future, and has ordered a refund of all such fines levied during the last five years.

32. The *Bangabhumi* of the 14th November has the following:—

The spirit of the present Bengal Administration.

If we compare the system of British rule in India with the system of British rule in force in other English Dependencies, we are constrained to say that the measure of self-government which we prayed for was by no means large. Unfortunately, however, instead of being granted a new measure of self-government, we have been deprived of even that little which we had been so long enjoying. Under the existing system of administration, we are at the mercy of an arbitrary official rule, and we do not know where to seek for redress against oppression by officials invested with unlimited powers. If we bring our grievances to the notice of the Government, we are told that the officials are not capable of oppressing the people, but if, per chance, any of them really commits oppression, the Government will not fail to punish him according to his guilt.

We are passing our days resignedly depending upon the assurances of the Government, and if the Government officials, invested as they are with unlimited powers, abuse those powers, we can do nothing but weep and come to the Government for the redress of our grievances. Moreover, the Government has, to tell the truth, not even the power to protect us against official oppression. It has delegated all its powers to the officials and the officials are now virtually out of its control.

Formerly the Government used to ascertain whether the people were suffering on account of any doings of the officials, and if it found out any cause for grievances, it was always ready to remove it. That is not, however, the case with the Government at present. The policy of the Government in this respect has, since the time of Sir Charles Elliott, been a policy of indifference. Sir Charles Elliott did not like to see the faults of an erring official made public, and he was displeased with those who brought official failings and shortcomings to the public notice, and was very much pleased with those who kept these concealed. Once some servants of Dr. Trailakya Nath Mitra, a Vakil of the Calcutta High Court, were ill-treated by a Civilian. Trailakya Babu did not make the matter public. For this he was thanked by Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Charles Elliott followed a curious policy. If the faults of any official were made public, he was sure to take his side. If, encouraged by such indulgence, an erring official went on committing oppression, he was not rebuked or checked. Sir Charles Elliott used to say that if any official committed any wrong he would be punished departmentally, and the public had no right to comment on his conduct.

We raise this question of official highhandedness because the present Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government is following in the footsteps of Sir Charles Elliott. We would not have mentioned the name of Mr. Bolton in this connection if we had known that Sir John Woodburn looked to these things. It is not well that Sir John Woodburn has left it entirely to Mr. Bolton to look to these matters. He should know that if he does not keep an eye over these things, his Government will incur great discredit. We do not say that any injustice is being intentionally done. What we say is that years of confusion and mismanagement are now bringing about very undesirable consequences.

Those Englishmen who come out to this country as Civilians after passing a competitive examination do not all belong to the higher classes of English society. Many of them come from the lowest ranks of the society which do not receive any social recognition from the upper classes. On coming to India, these young civilians find themselves possessed of absolute powers and feel they have only got to lord it over the people. This naturally leads them to contemptuously treat the latter. Many of them, again, are so raw and inexperienced that they require an able and experienced official to keep them straight. If they commit any mistake, there is no one to correct it. They are encouraged and not checked. It is, therefore, no wonder that they should gradually lose all human instincts.

The newspapers are the only agency to bring the grievances of the public to the notice of the Government, and, but for them, the Government would not

BANGABHUMI,
Nov. 14th, 1899.

know these acts of official oppression and highhandedness. We do not know why Sir Charles Elliott failed to understand this. Instead of ignoring the complaints and grievances ventilated in the press, the Government ought to take steps to correct erring officials.

VISHNUPRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

33. The *Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 15th November says that Mr. Cotton lately passed an order transferring Mr. Hudson from Manipur to Sylhet on account of his committing certain judicial vagaries. But an order has now been published in the *Assam Gazette* to the effect that, on the expiry of his leave, Mr. Hudson will return to Manipur. Government is often obliged to do unpleasant things for the sake of prestige. It is from this consideration of prestige that Mr. Pennell has been transferred to an unhealthy district like Noakhali. It is probably from the same consideration that Mr. Hudson has again been posted to Manipur. But the officials should bear one thing in mind. The happiness of Indians depends in a great measure upon them. A Judge should be such that the people may learn to trust him and look upon him as their *ma-bap*. A poor innocent man was oppressed by two European officials at Chapra. The local officers resolved to shield the two delinquents, and with that object tried to add to the sufferings of the poor victim. But for the presence of a just Judge like Mr. Pennell at the station, the sufferings of that poor man would have known no bounds. But what, in that case, would have been the feelings of the people towards the officials? Would they have learnt to look upon them as their *ma-bap*? But what is the reward Mr. Pennell gets for his justice? He has been transferred to a nasty and unhealthy place. The Judges have learnt from this that it is not their business to protect the life and property of the people, but to maintain the prestige of Government.

It is from a consideration of prestige that Mr. Hudson has been again posted to Manipur. But the writer cannot bring himself to believe that Mr. Cotton should in this way cancel his own order. The public suppose that Mr. Cotton has been compelled to post Mr. Hudson again to Manipur owing to pressure from above. This is nothing new in India, and the supposition of the public does not, therefore, seem to be altogether unfounded. It is hoped that the generous Mr. Cotton will disclose the mystery of this Hudson affair.

VISHNUPRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PRATIKA.

34. The same paper says that the plague officers are far more terrible to the Indians than the plague. The plague has no power over those who are in health, while the healthy and the diseased alike are oppressed by the plague officers. It is not known whether maltreatment by plague officers had anything to do with the suicide committed by Umes Chandra Gupta at Chausa. But Umes Chandra's dead body should have been kept till his relatives arrived. Chausa is not very far from Benares, and Umes Chandra's relatives could have easily come from Benares and performed his obsequies. A man in the full possession of his senses was going back to his wife and children. What possible mortification could he feel on the way that he put an end to his own life? The Lieutenant-Governor is a generous man, and the writer believes that he has ordered an enquiry into the matter. But as nothing has been made known about it up to this time, the writer is obliged to remind His Honour of the subject.

The plague is far more prevalent in Bombay, and oppression by plague officers is proportionately great there. The writer had hoped that this oppression would decrease under the noble-minded Lord Curzon, but it is the ill-luck of the Indians that this hope has not been fulfilled.

The writer then gives a translation of a letter sent by one Bajappa Parappa Baja to the *Champion* newspaper, complaining of oppression committed upon him by some plague officers.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

35. Referring to the candidature of Messrs. Tilak, Gokhale and Gadud for a seat in the Bombay Legislative Council, the *Sanjivani* of the 9th November says that, considering the persecution Mr. Tilak has suffered in the service of his country, it will be proper for the other candidates to withdraw from the field and have Mr. Tilak elected unopposed.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

The candidates for election to
the Bombay Legislative Council.

36. In the opinion of the *Bangavasi* of the 11th November, the proposed
The Cooly Bill. Cooly Bill is a material improvement upon the

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 11th, 1899.

existing law, but there is still room for further improvement. It ought to be provided that the registration of a cooly should be made in the subdivision in which he lives, for out of his own subdivision he will fall easily into the clutches of the cooly-recruiter. The garden *sardars* also should be bound by restrictions and limitations like the other recruiters, and should not be given unlimited facilities for recruitment.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

37. The *Basumati* of the 9th November writes as follows:—

The famine.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

The Transvaal war seems to have monopolised the attention of the Indian Press, and it has nothing to say about the famine which has broken out in many parts of the country. In all parts of India, with the exception of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, famine is furiously raging, and hundreds and thousands of hungry men, women and children are roving from town to town, and from door to door for something to eat. Many, goaded to desperation, have taken to plundering. Will not this news painfully move our hearts? The cows which we Hindus worship as goddesses are now dying in large numbers for want of fodder, and even Hindus, hungry Hindus, are selling them to the butcher for a trifle. The butchers are killing them for their skins. From the western part of Rajputana alone, three lakhs of hides have been sent to Karachi for export within the last few months!

The Punjab Government is trying its best to relieve the distress of the famine-stricken people. Lahore has been filled with refugees from the famine-stricken Native States, and the Lahore *serai* has been opened to them for shelter. The Government has opened relief works, and relief kitchens are also being opened.

Our kind-hearted Viceroy is now touring through the famine-stricken parts of the country. He is carefully inspecting the relief arrangements made for starving men and cattle, and is assuring all of the help of the Government.

38. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th November says that the disaster in Bhagal-

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

Mr. Cunningham in the Bhagal-
pur disaster.

pur is far more serious than the disaster at Darjeeling. It is doubtful whether so much sensation would have been created by the disaster at Darjeeling if there had been no loss of European life in it. We should have had no cause for sorrow if the noble-minded Sir John Woodburn had shown the same sympathy with the sufferers in Bhagalpur as he has shown with the sufferers in Darjeeling. The European community's liberality in aid of the Bhagalpur sufferers does not amount to even a hundredth part of their liberality in aid of the sufferers at Darjeeling. But our sorrow at all this is equalled by our joy at what Mr. Cunningham, the Officiating District Magistrate of Bhagalpur, has done. As soon as he heard of the disaster, he hastened to the aid of the sufferers with a supply of rice and *darma* (mats) worth one hundred rupees. Heedless of his own health and comfort, he laboured hard for the relief of the sufferers. Lest there should be any delay in obtaining sanction to a relief grant from Government, he has spent two thousand rupees for relief purposes out of his own pocket. The residents of Bhagalpur are fortunate enough in having such a sympathetic Magistrate in a season of distress like this. It is said that the native title-hunters of Bhagalpur have not shown themselves in a good light in aid of the sufferers.

39. The *Samiran* of the 15th November has the following:—

Lord Curzon's famine tour.

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

We are glad to find the Viceroy expressing his sympathy with the famine-stricken people, in the course of his tour. We hope that the officers appointed to give relief to the famine-stricken men will follow the noble example of the Viceroy and do their duty by sympathising with the distressed. Lord Curzon has said:—

"The head of the Government of India should not, in my judgment, be a passing phantom that comes and goes amid pageantry, processions and firing of salutes. The interests of all India are his interest, the salvation of all India is his duty."

Lord Curzon has spoken like a true statesman.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

40. The *Basumati* of the 9th November writes as follows:—

Just as the *sannyasis* feel their backs itching at the sound of the drum which proclaims the approach of the hook-swinging festival, even so do the Congressists feel their tongues itching on the approach of November and the appearance of the influenza. The whole year's political inactivity, enlivened now and then with quarrel and *daladali*, defamation and waste of money, is, all of a sudden, followed in December, by a busy wagging of the tongue. A tastefully decorated *pandal* is at once raised at the cost of a lakh of rupees, and there our young patriots, gaily dressed, try their best to show themselves off in speeches, and concentrate all their patriotism, philanthropy, unity, energy, loyalty and dutifulness in the coruscations of their brilliant metaphors. Three days of speech-making and activity, and their energy is spent and the delegates return to their homes—to the petty quarrels and squabbles and litigation, shelved by them for the short time required for the Congress meeting. What is this? Is this manlike? Do not be offended with us. Do not take what we say for spiteful abuse. Do not treat our friendly comments with contempt; what we say is true. We know the object of the Congress to be high and noble, and we are one of its staunch supporters. We see that the object of the Congress is still far from being fulfilled. This pains us and makes us speak out the truth. The way in which we are carrying on the Congress will soon bring us to its end. Congress and Congress politics will soon be cast into oblivion, leaving their miserable consequences to be borne by us as best as we may. We are led to make these observations by the litigation going on between the editor of the *Hitavadi* and the editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, both of whom are said to be the leading enthusiastic supporters of the Congress cause.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

41. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 10th November writes that a religious

Religious discussion by Musal-
mans.

discussion between the Hanifis and the Mahammadis is going on in many places in the country. On the 29th October last, such a discussion was held at Baduria, in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, in which the Subdivisional Officer, Babu Mahendra Nath Mukharji, acted as the judge or referee. Will the Deputy Magistrate's decision satisfy the Hanifi and the Mahammadi sects or convert them to each other's opinion? Another religious discussion will come off on the 30th November at Kesavpur in the Jessore district. In the writer's opinion, such discussion is doing great harm to the Musalman religion and society, and it is only ignorant Musalmans who take part in the same. Such religious discussion should therefore be discontinued. The Kesavpur meeting should not be called. The Hanifi Musalmans should not enter into a religious discussion with the Muhammadis or the Lamojahabis.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th November has the following:—

The alleged joy of the Indians
at the British reverses in the
Transvaal.

The Anglo-Indian Press charges natives with being jubilant over the reverses sustained by British arms in the Transvaal. We have a right to ask these writers how they have been enabled to judge the feelings of natives in this matter. They should let us know plainly what is the manifestation of joy, on observing which they have ventured to impeach the loyalty of the whole Indian people in this way.

The interests of Indians are so closely bound up with those of the English, that the Indians can do nothing without the help of the latter. As the country is now situated, we are perfectly helpless without Englishmen in every matter that concerns us. For our peace as well as for our happiness, for our trade no less than for our domestic economy, for the protection of our lives no less than for the protection of our property, we are entirely dependent upon the English. Will our Anglo-Indian contemporaries kindly explain to us how it can be possible for the Indians, under circumstances like these, to rejoice over the reverses of English arms?

If it be possible for owners of houses to rejoice at the sight of their blazing roofs, then only can it be possible for the Indians to rejoice at the reverses of the English. But, however injurious this statement of the Anglo-Indian Press may be to the Indians, it is the severest reflection that could be

passed on the English administration of India. It means that such is the English administration and such the success of the English in pleasing the Indians that the latter have forgotten all considerations of interest, and forgetful of their own welfare are rejoicing over the reverses sustained by English arms in the Transvaal. And this is a far more formidable reflection upon British rule than upon Indian loyalty.

There is another fact to be borne in mind. The Boers are enemies rather than friends of the Indians. The Indian residents of South Africa have been and are being harassed in various ways by these Boers. Will our Anglo-Indian contemporaries explain to us how Indians can possibly forget this antipathy of the Boers and rejoice at their success? If they cannot explain this, will they kindly tell us why they are making such a sweeping indictment against the Indian people?

The Indians have nothing to gain by the reverse of British arms in the Transvaal. Not to speak of the defeat of the English in South Africa, what good would Indians derive from the defeat of the English in India itself in a revolution or a disturbance? But for British rule, where would be the Indians, and the Bengalis in particular, at this moment? Would not the Bengalis be trodden under foot again and again by anybody and everybody? The idea that we must desire the misfortune of those to whom we owe all our security cannot but be the idea of a mad-man.

We do not say that the English Government is faultless, or that the people of India are never dissatisfied with its acts. There are defects in the English administration, and the people of India find fault with its proceedings from time to time. But this dissatisfaction is nothing serious; it does not mean a desire for revolt or revolution; it only indicates a desire for administrative reform and consequent increase of the stability of British rule. There can be no doubt therefore that those Anglo-Indian editors who have painted the Indian character in such false colours and have misrepresented their acts and words in this way have demeaned themselves. Even in revolutions and disturbances the Indians never dream that their interests and the interests of their rulers are not identical. The bravery of even the most deadly foes extorts praise, and it is owing solely to this that many European and Bengali subjects of the Queen have praised Boer bravery.

43. The same paper says that the *Englishman* has lately disgraced itself by a betrayal of its innate dislike of natives.

Native respect for women.

Without giving any specific case of miscarriage of justice, it suggests that as natives have no respect for women, native Honorary Magistrates ought not to be entrusted with the trial of any European woman. There can be no doubt, however, that natives look upon the sex with greater reverence than Europeans. No native, Hindu or Musalman, shrinks from laying down his life for the protection of female honour. The relatives of a *zanana* lady do not scruple to take the life of the scoundrel who attempts to take the smallest liberty with her. Must it still be said that natives do not know how to honour women? And must that community be said to have a greater respect for the sex in which adultery is most rampant, in which husbands frequently apply for divorce, and in which the practice prevails of accepting money compensation from a wife's paramour? We should not have had any reason to complain if English Judges trying European men and women had been as careful to maintain the sacred character of the law courts as native Judges.

44. The *Pratibasi* of the 13th November writes as follows:—

The Boer and the English treatment of natives compared.

"The Boers," writes the *Graphic*, "to their misfortune, have ever treated the natives harshly." It is no doubt wisdom to accord good treatment to all, and thereby win their love and sympathy. But do the English in this country always keep this in mind? If the bad treatment of the conquered brings about misfortune to the conquering nation, why do not English statesmen take into their consideration the evil which is being done to the State by those Englishmen who look down upon and persecute us whenever they have the opportunity for so doing, and by those officials with whom it seems to be a principle to deprive us of our rights and privileges? If any liberal newspaper in England espouses the cause of liberal administration, if the British public keep a strict

HITAVADI,
Nov. 10th, 1899.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 13th, 1899.

watch over the British officials, they alone will be entitled to the gratitude of the Indians. Mr. Pennell has been transferred to Noakhali for criticising the conduct of executive officials and Mr. Mackenzie could not even bear to have a native for his neighbour. The new Municipal Bill has deprived us of local self-government. "They (the Boers)," continues the *Graphic*, "rule by the rifle and the *Sjamback*—the whip of rhinocero's hide, which cuts like a knife at every stroke." True. But do not the Englishmen in India sometimes show their love to the natives with kicks from booted feet? Do not English soldiers shoot natives to death?

SAMIRAN,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

45. The *Samiran* of the 15th November says that Mr. Thorborn, the Revenue Commissioner of the Punjab, who was censured for his speech about the frontier policy of Government, is retiring. We are grateful to him for many reasons. The inhabitants of the Punjab ought to show him their gratitude at the time of his retirement.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 1st, 1899.

46. Referring to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, regarding the impending famine in the different parts of India, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 1st November states that His Excellency's intentions are good, and if they are given effect to in time, a large number of human lives may be saved in the most distressed parts of India.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Nov. 4th, 1899.

47. The *Utkaldipika* of the 4th November is of opinion that the donations made by the English public on behalf of Indian soldiers killed, wounded or deformed in the late frontier war will be gratefully remembered by the Indian public, and will foster those friendly and kindly feelings that are necessary for the union of the two countries.

UTKALDIPIKA.

48. The same paper complains that the Cuttack Municipality has irregularly increased the municipal taxes, and that their proceedings have greatly dissatisfied the rate-payers, many of whom consider themselves very much oppressed.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 18th November, 1899.